

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Claim 3 has been objected to for an informality. Claim 3 has been amended to correct the spelling of the word "point." The Examiner's reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stowell et al. (US Patent App. 20020099579) in view of Wu et al. (An Approach of Modeling, Monitoring and Managing Business Operations for Just-In Time Manufacturing). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Stowell and Wu teach or suggest all the limitations of Claims 1-20.

Claims 1 and 11 claim, *inter alia*, "executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities" (emphasis added).

Stowell teaches a stateless, event-monitoring server system for use in monitoring performance between buyers and suppliers (see Abstract). Stowell does not teach or suggest "executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments

among said entities” as claimed in Claims 1 and 11. Stowell teaches that relevant pieces of data between buyer and supplier are extracted from commitments in the normal flow of e-commerce messages (see paragraphs [0093] and [0104]). Stowell extracts information from messages, for example, a EDI/XML or spreadsheets in messages. Stowell relies on a message passing through a remote management server system before a KPI may be calculated and does not teach the use of an integrated set of applications enabling interactions. Such messages and remote management server system are not analogous to “an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities” as claimed. Stowell’s messages and remote management server system are stand alone elements and are not integrated into the business process. Therefore, Stowell does not teach or suggest all the limitations of Claims 1 and 11.

Wu teaches a business process management method using probes and probe points (see Abstract and page 1, last paragraph). Wu does not teach or suggest “executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities” as claimed in Claims 1 and 11. Wu teaches a business plan is implemented by a manufacturer (see page 2, section 2, second paragraph). The business plan of Wu is implemented by the manufacture alone. Thus, the business plan of Wu is not analogous to “an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities” as claimed in Claims 1 and 11. Therefore, Wu does cure the deficiencies of Stowell.

The combined teachings of Stowell and Wu fail to teach or suggest “executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business

commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities” as claimed in Claims 1 and 11.

Claims 2-10 depend from Claim 1. Claims 12-20 depend from Claim 11. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 21-38 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including Claims 1-20, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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